

LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL PROJECT



MELTON HIGHWAY, SYDENHAM

LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL UPDATE

DECEMBER 2015

Removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings will transform the way people live, work and travel across metropolitan Melbourne and improve safety for drivers and pedestrians.

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What's happening?

Construction has already begun at several sites, including Main Road and Furlong Road in St Albans, and planning and consultation is underway for the removal of the remaining level crossings.

Melton Highway level crossing in Sydenham has been fast tracked for removal by the Victorian Government. Removing this level crossing will improve travel to and from this major transport hub and support local development in one of the fastest growing areas of Australia.

Why remove the boom gates?

The Melton Highway boom gates are down for around 24 minutes during the two-hour morning peak, causing congestion and frustration in Melbourne's west. No more boom gates will mean no more waiting for the 30,000 vehicles, including 200 buses, that use this level crossing each weekday!

The Level Crossing Removal Project will remove dangerous and congested level crossings that divide communities. This will mean:

- creation of thousands of jobs during construction

- improved safety – crossing the railway tracks will be much safer for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers
- more reliable roads and rail – traffic congestion will be reduced and more trains will be able to run more often
- better connected communities – opportunities to create new public spaces, and establish new connections
- enhancing and creating vibrant areas for new community spaces and retail and residential development.



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What we're currently doing

We are busy carrying out early site investigations and talking with stakeholders, including Brimbank City Council, to complete the initial assessment of the best way to remove this level crossing.

You may have noticed geotechnical investigations taking place near the level crossing in November and December 2015. Data collected from these investigations will provide important information about the underground soil and water conditions to help decide the best solution for the local conditions.

Timeline

Planning – 2015 to early 2016

- Site investigations
- Assessment of options to remove the level crossing
- Early community consultation

Development – Early 2016

- Release of feasible design options
- Community consultation and input into design

Procurement – mid to late 2016

- Project is put to tender
- Contract to construct the level crossing removal is awarded
- Designs are finalised

Delivery – early 2017 to early 2019

- Community consultation
- Early works
- Major construction



How will the level crossing be removed?

There are many ways to separate the road and railway line, including lowering the railway line under the road or the road under the railway line; or building a railway bridge over the road or a road bridge over the railway line. There are examples of all these designs across Melbourne, Australia and all over the world.

Over the last few months we have been busy undertaking an initial assessment of the different removal options. Our reviews are taking into consideration the local surroundings such as geography, ground conditions and nearby infrastructure and services. Urban design can also be a consideration, and guidelines have been developed to provide direction for the look and feel of the options. This information is helping us to determine if a particular solution is more feasible than another.

What we're considering

As part of the initial assessment we are considering the impacts and benefits to local infrastructure and services such as:

- Melton Highway – a four lane highway carrying approximately 30,000 vehicles per day.
- The Sunbury train line – the only passenger rail service for the urban growth area to the north-west of Melbourne that operates over 200 train services a day, with up to 30 train services during each morning and afternoon peak period.
- Bus services – over 200 buses cross over the level crossing each day.
- Watergardens – a major transport and retail hub servicing Melbourne's booming north-western suburbs.

Learn more at our community information sessions

We are keen to understand the local issues and expectations of residents, businesses, road and rail users.

Your feedback on the designs and project is a priority. To keep informed of opportunities to be involved, sign up for email updates or connect with us on social media. We'll send you the latest news, and opportunities to have your say at each stage of the project.

We are holding drop in information sessions in February 2016 to share information about the project and discuss your ideas about the potential design options directly with the project team. Details will be advertised soon in your local newspaper and on our website. Alternatively you can contact us via the details overleaf.